

ETS - HK 656 A 3

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OSD review
completed

May 3, 1971

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM TO GEN. HAIG

FROM: Dick Kennedy

State Dept. review
completed

MORI
C05138509

Attached cable transmits to Embassy Bangkok Secretary Laird's "tentative" guidance on air support. Note that the FY'72 attack air and gunship sortie levels drop significantly and that the number of squadrons is reduced. I know the recent memo was designed to hold the levels up but the word doesn't seem to get around. The Laos planning exercise is running into trouble in large part because there is an apparent shortage of sortie support given Embassy [] estimates of requirements and this existing DOD guidance. We will have to get this sorted out quickly.

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ETS-HK 65683

194Q

R 012329Z MAY 71
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3064
BT
T O P S E C R E T STATE 075666

May 1, 7:29 PM 1971

NODIS

SUBJ: US FORCE PLANNING

REF: BANGKOK 5811

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. ON 21 APRIL SECDEF ISSUED HIS TOP SECRET QUOTE PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING GUIDANCE FOR THE FY 73-77 DEFENSE PROGRAM UNQUOTE.

2. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS FROM THE COVERING MEMORANDUM. "THE FOURTH SECTION, SOUTHEAST ASIA PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS, IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT OUR PLANS ARE ALL BASED ON CONSISTENT ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING U.S. OPERATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND THAT THEY ARE ADEQUATE TO PROVIDE THE PRESIDENT THE OPTIONS WHICH HE NEEDS. I ANTICIPATE THAT THESE ASSUMPTIONS WILL BE REVISED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED REDEPLOYMENTS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM ONLY THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 1971 AND, THEREFORE, THE STRENGTH SHOWN FOR END-FY 72 IS SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE. THE SORTIE LEVEL ASSUMPTIONS FOR FY 73 AND THE RELATED THAILAND STRENGTHS FOR END-FY 72 AND 73 ARE UNDER REVIEW AND I EXPECT TO ISSUE FIRM DECISIONS WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. IN THE INTERIM, PLAN ON THE BASIS OF THE ASSUMPTIONS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA WHICH ARE ENCLOSED. HOWEVER, THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION OF THE SE STRENGTHS WITH THE THAI OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS UNTIL FIRM DECISIONS ARE MADE."

3. THE PORTIONS OF SECTION 4 THAT PERTAIN TO THAILAND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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US MILITARY FORCES/ACTIVITY LEVELS

	END FY 71	END FY 72	END FY 73	END FY 74	END FY 75-77
ARMY (NOT INCLUDED)					
NAVY (NOT INCLUDED)					
AIR FORCE					
TACTICAL AIR SORTIES/MONTH	10,000	5,000	-	-	-
(AVG DURING FISCAL YEAR F/G/		(7,500)	(3,500)	(-)	(-)
B-52 SORTIES/MONTH H/	1,000	1,000	300	300	-
(AVG DURING FISCAL YEAR)		(1,000)	(650)	(300)	(-)
GUNSHIP SORTIES/MONTH	1,000	700	-	-	-
(AVG DURING FISCAL YEAR)		(700)	(350)	(-)	(-)
FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRONS I/	21	10	-	-	-
RECON ACFT	39	13	-	-	-
SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCE (SOF)	70	46	-	-	-
AIRCRAFT: UE J/					
SEATACS/TEWS: UE K/	327	232	-	-	-

US MINITARY PERSONNEL (000)

IN SOUTH VIETNAM (NOT INCLUDED)

	7.1	5.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
IN THAILAND					
ARMY	7.1	5.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
NAVY/MARINES/	.4	.3	.3	.3	.3
COAST GUARD					
AIR FORCE	24.7	21.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
TOTAL IN THAILAND	32.2	26.9	4.9	4.9	4.9

OFFSHORE (NAVY) (NOT INCLUDED)

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FOOTNOTES A-E (NOT INCLUDED)

F/ AIR FORCE TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE ASSUMED TO AVERAGE 7,500 PER MONTH DURING FY 72, REACHING A MONTHLY RATE OF 5,000 AT END FY 72. DURING FY 73, SORTIES WILL AVERAGE 3,500 PER MONTH, DECLINING TO ZERO BY END FY 73.

G/ FIGHTER/ATTACK SORTIES ONLY.

H/ B-52 SORTIES ARE ASSUMED TO AVERAGE 1,000 PER MONTH DURING FY 72. DURING FY 73, THEY ARE ASSUMED TO AVERAGE 650 PER MONTH, DECLINING FROM A MONTHLY RATE OF 1,000 AT END FY 72 TO 300 AT END FY 73. BY END FY 73, NO B-52S WILL BE BASED IN THAILAND, BUT THE MONTHLY SORTIE CAPABILITY LEVEL WILL REMAIN AT 300 THROUGH FY 74.

I/ INCLUDES F-4, F-105, B-57, A-1, AND A-37 SQUADRONS.

J/ DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY A-1 OR A-37 SQUADRONS; NOR DOES IT INCLUDE GUNSHIPS, WHICH ARE SHOWN SEPARATELY.

K/ SOUTHEAST ASIA TACTICAL AIR CONTROL SYSTEM/TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEM.

L-M (NOT INCLUDED)

IRWIN
BT

Drafted by: OSD/ISA - J Eisenhower

Cleared by: EA/TB - Mr Dexter

S/S-O - Mr Emmons

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